

**Northeast Nebraska
Intensive Livestock Production
in
Dixon and Dakota Counties, Nebraska
prepared for
Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office**

by

Save America's Heritage

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with

Historic Context Report Pt. 1 & 2

by

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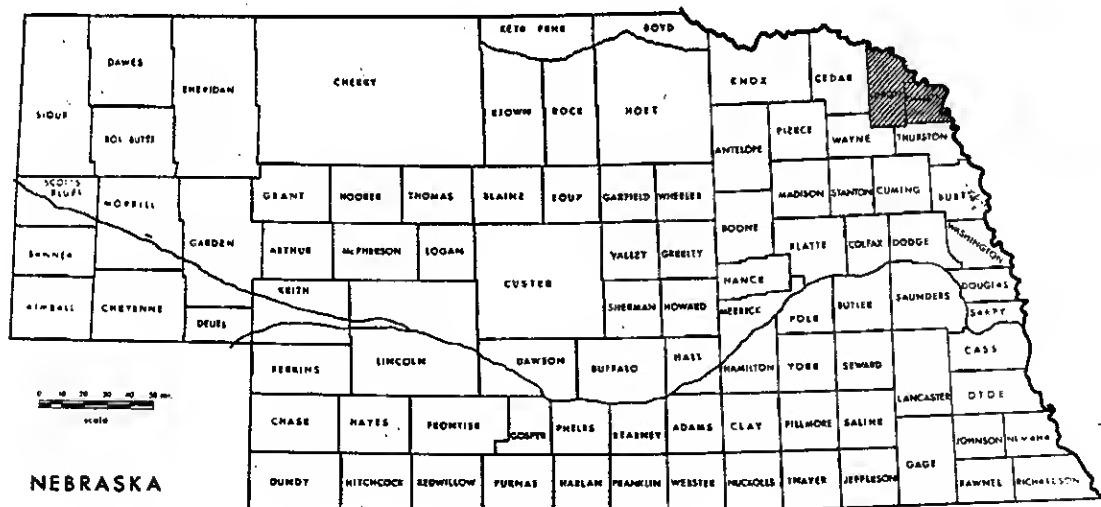
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INTRODUCTION

The public mention of a "historic building survey" often fails to produce a collective image or understanding. A strong social awareness towards preserving our built environment does exist in the rehabilitation of aged urban districts, but the notion of recording historical structures as a preservation activity remains a publicly obscure concept. Fortunately, this obscurity is due to a lack of awareness rather than a lack of genuine concern. Communicating the importance of this activity as a documentation of our Great Plains history cannot be stressed enough.

The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) has established an ongoing Historic Building Survey (NeHBS) which deals with the priorities of recording our built heritage. Save America's Heritage has engaged in a contract with the NeSHPO to conduct the reconnaissance and intensive surveys of Dixon and Dakota Counties in northeastern Nebraska.



It is Save America's Heritage belief that people, and the places in which they live, are the raw materials of history. A community, its inhabitants

and its development over an extended period of time are proper subjects for our contemplation, for it is through such studies that we gain a more sympathetic comprehension of the present.

The intent of this survey was to document resources which contribute to the evolving context of Nebraska's historic architecture. The NeHBS survey should be used not only as an information resource in the field of preservation, but also to express a genuine concern for the history of the Great Plains built environment.

Furthermore, it is also the opinion of Save America's Heritage that such surveys are a necessary tool in the recordation of Great Plains settlement. The demise of Nebraska's rural architecture is directly linked to the decline of the rural-based population. In the year 1900, 76.3% of Nebraska's population was found in rural towns or on the farms.¹ However, by 1980 the rural-based population has dropped nearly 40 percentage points to the current figure of 37.1% (see Table 1).

Table 1. Total Population.

Nebraska		Selected Years	
Year	Population	Percent of Total	
		Urban	Rural
1900	1,066,300	23.7	76.3
1910	1,192,214	26.1	73.9
1920	1,296,372	31.3	68.7
1930	1,377,963	35.3	64.7
1940	1,315,834	39.1	60.9
1950	1,325,510	46.9	53.1
1960	1,411,921	54.3	45.7
1970	1,485,333	61.5	38.5
1980	1,569,825	62.9	37.1

¹Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1980.

The affect on the historic built environment has been devastating. The number of houses now exceeds the demand and the older perhaps less appealing buildings are not re-inhabited. The buildings then deteriorate and are either dismantled or collapse. Consequently, there exists an

increasing decline in the "pool" of historic building resources. Compounding the demise of these rural resources is the current decline of the agricultural economy. The prospect of farming as a profitable future for the next generations is now less desirable. This, in turn, contributes to the decreasing rural population and re-inhabitation of existing historic buildings. Further negative effects are witnessed in the consolidation and abandonment of the railway system. What were once the lifelines of the 1900 rural-based communities now race through without stopping, carrying goods bound for larger cities which act as distribution centers for the surrounding rural population.

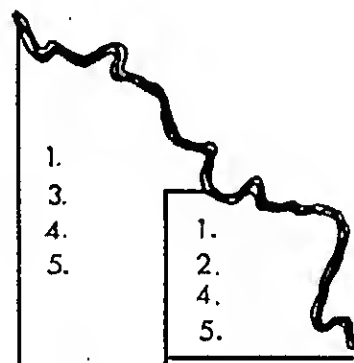
The enumeration of social changes affecting historic resources is endless. It is clear, however, that the result of these changes coupled with the diminishing affects of time substantiate the need for historic building surveys. It is through such surveys that we not only record the built settlement of Nebraska, but reach a fuller understanding of our present world.

REPORT FORMAT

The publication which you are now reading is but one of six different reports issued as a result of the Historic Building Survey of Dixon and Dakota Counties in northeastern Nebraska. The results of this survey are issued separately in reference to the six components identified by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) as potentially significant historic contexts found within the study area. These six components consist of the following:

Five Historic Contexts:

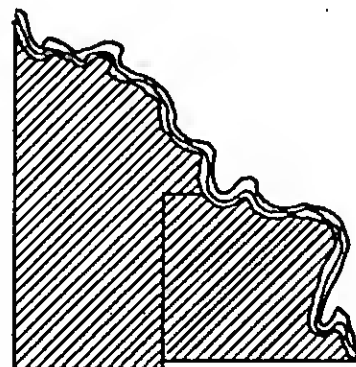
1. Irish-American Immigration
2. Danish-American Immigration
3. Swedish-American Immigration
4. Retail Commerce
5. N.E. Nebraska Livestock Production



Dixon

Dakota

General Reconnaissance Survey:



Dixon

Dakota

The six reports are therefore issued separately in reference to each of the five historic contexts and to the reconnaissance survey results. These individual reports will work in relationship to one another with the Reconnaissance Survey Report acting as a general reference guide to survey

results and containing the inventory of the potentially eligible non-context properties. However, the Reconnaissance Report also contains the inventories of the properties which are potentially eligible with respect to the five historic contexts. The documentation of these context-related properties and discussion of the context findings are developed in the publication relating to each individual context. Therefore, the authors may find it necessary to cross-reference the reader from the Reconnaissance Report to any of the five Historic Context Reports and vice versa.

A RESEARCH DESIGN FOR INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN DIXON AND DAKOTA COUNTIES

Introduction

It is the intention of this paper to contribute two important functions towards the execution of the intensive survey of Dixon and Dakota Counties. First, it will provide Save America's Heritage survey team with the guidelines by which the survey will be performed and secondly, it establishes a means of communicating these guidelines to NeSHPO project managers for critique and refinement.

The format of this Research Design will be to discuss first the "non-mechanical" aspects of the survey, followed by a discussion of the tasks considered more "mechanical" in nature. The primary purpose of the "mechanical" discussion is to define the documentation process used in the recording of historic properties while the "non-mechanical" discussion will consist of the survey objectives and limitations and becomes the starting point of this paper.

Objectives of Intensive Survey

A. General

The intensive-level survey conducted by Save America's Heritage for the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) is designed to accomplish several fundamental goals. Perhaps the most important of these goals is the relationship of intensive-level survey to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The information documented during intensive-level survey eventually provides the factual basis for the NRHP nomination. Therefore, the format of this recorded information must be compatible with the format of the National Register nomination form. For this, the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Form will serve as a model for the topical information to be recorded by SAVE's survey teams.

A second goal of the intensive survey is the compilation of data relating to contextual and thematic topics identified by the State Historic Preservation Office and included in the contractual agreement. Documentation of these resources should contribute to either the

establishment of the respective context or further define existing contextual knowledge. Therefore, it is the goal of the intensive-level survey to identify by recordation the fundamental characteristics of the historic content properties.

Existing information in the NeSHPO files will be evaluated for compatibility with the contexts outlined in the contract. In the case where previously documented resources are compatible with the designated contexts, a conscientious effort will be made to include this information within the survey-generated data.

B. Context Specific

The primary objectives established by Save America's Heritage for the intensive survey of Intensive Livestock Production properties in Dixon and Dakota Counties are as follows:

1. To determine the proliferation and intensity of livestock production agriculture in Dixon and Dakota Counties.
2. To contribute to the existing contextual knowledge of Intensive Livestock Agriculture in northeastern Nebraska.
3. The visual and written recording of **known** historic livestock-producing farmsteads.
4. To explore the predominant ethnic ownership of intensive livestock farmsteads in Dixon and Dakota Counties.
5. The documentation of 10 intensive livestock farmsteads worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
6. To explore the potential link between livestock-producing farmsteads and German-American immigrants.

Methods of Intensive Survey

The "mechanical" aspect of intensive-level survey focuses primarily upon the documentation process and corresponding methods used in the recording of historical resources. The recording technique is considered of prime importance and it is the attitude of Save America's Heritage to strive for a conscientious effort and accurate method while recording historic resources. To best communicate SAVE's intentions, the following

discussion on survey methods has been organized into three groupings. These are: 1) pre-field research, 2) pre-field activities, and 3) field activities.

A. Pre-Field Research

Following the selection of the survey's geographical boundaries by the NeSHPO, the pre-field research is begun and focuses primarily on the performance of archival research. The main purpose of archival research is to identify the nature of the survey area's settlement by culture, geographic location and time frame. In addition, the archival research should attempt to identify potential themes of architectural, cultural and historical significance within the survey area, should they exist. While it is acknowledged that the extent and availability of research information varies according to the events and background of the area, the following references will be investigated prior to the reconnaissance survey: locally written county histories; county histories written within a statewide history; existing survey data in the NeSHPO site files including survey forms; the files of the NSHS photographic collections; centennial publications on community and church histories; archival maps and atlases; newspaper articles concerning a community's built environment; and literature published by local or county historical groups. The majority of these types of publications can be found in the libraries of state and county historical societies. A bibliography of all sources referenced should be maintained and, along with photocopies information, added to the site files. These general data files are organized according to specific counties, local communities and individual sites. The files are used prior to reconnaissance survey to familiarize the surveyors with the survey area and are consulted again in the field during survey. Added to the general files are all forms of public correspondence received up to the point the survey is begun.

Due to the absence of existing context reports, extensive preparation becomes necessary to satisfactorily develop the concepts of the reports. The delineation of the individual contexts is considered a most important task. Therefore, the following is an outline of the contextual

methodology to be employed by SAVE's subcontractors during the phase of pre-field research.

Each historical contextual unit will identify important patterns, events, persons or cultural values pertaining to that topic. It is anticipated that information within the Context Report will aid in the identification of property types associated with each individual theme. In the preparation of the historical context, the following will be considered:

- A. Trends in area settlement and development.
- B. Aesthetic and artistic values embodied in architecture, construction technology or craftsmanship.
- C. Research values or problems relevant to the historic context; social and physical sciences and humanities; and cultural interests of local communities.
- D. Intangible cultural values of ethnic groups and native American people.

B. Pre-Field Activities

The topic of pre-field activities are considered separate from pre-field research on the basis of their more publicly extroverted nature. Save America's Heritage will begin the pre-field activities with the distribution of notices announcing the survey and it's intentions to all the general public. This will be done by placing general notices in established commercial and non-commercial facilities of the communities, such as the U.S. Post Office, grocery stores, donut shops, etc. Reinforcing this is the dispersal of press releases to all active newspapers existing in the county. The intent of the release is to inform the public of the survey program and to solicit their input in the identification of historic resources. In addition to this, communication will be established with the local historians and historical societies detailing our intent and welcoming their possible input. Included in this communication will be information concerning the thematic topics and the time frame of the survey. The final task of pre-field activity will be the precautionary attempts to eliminate public suspicion. The justifiable

suspicion aroused by survey activities will potentially be eliminated through the listing of survey vehicles and personnel with local police departments and county sheriff patrols.

C. Field Activities: General

A primary concept in the documentation of historic buildings is the recognition that different building types may require different recording techniques. Therefore, it is necessary for the surveyor to define the specific types of information most relevant to the historic context of the property he is documenting.

However, despite the potential dissimilarities in intensive survey documentation, a standardized process has been developed which objectively derives the "pool" of properties worthy of intensive survey. This method, illustrated below, will be applied by Save America's Heritage to each of the Historic Contexts in an effort to identify those properties most worthy of intensive field survey.

1. Performance of reconnaissance survey with hierarchical site notations.
2. Initial base list of potentially-eligible properties derived from review of reconnaissance survey documentation.
3. Review of contact sheets and site descriptions performed to add or delete base-list properties.
4. Land atlas research documenting historic chain of ownership (1891, 1911, 1925) for rural base-list properties.
5. Deed, mortgage, and mechanic's lien research performed to develop list of original owners on all base-list properties.
6. Research 1880, 1900, and 1910 census records to determine possible ethnic association of original owners of base-list properties.
7. Review all published county, church, and centennial histories, with particular emphasis on historic building citations.
8. Contact local historical societies for input on histories of base-list properties.

9. Second base-list review with application of criterion to derive lists of sites to be intensively surveyed and sites that are not.
10. Derive further significance through intensive field survey and define final list of potentially eligible properties.

Integrity

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must possess integrity. Integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. If a property retains the physical characteristics it possessed in the past then it has the capacity to convey association with historical patterns or persons, architectural design, or information about a culture or people. Consequently, the determination of integrity is considered a most important field activity.

For reconnaissance-level documentation, two very basic questions must first be asked. These are:

1. Is the building at least 50 years old?
2. Does it retain its integrity?

The answer to question #1 is usually quite objective. However, the determination of integrity requires some discussion.

It must first be recognized that the degree of integrity exhibited by historic buildings can vary greatly. The principal investigator must first ask, "Does this property reflect its historic character or has it been altered by the application of contemporary building materials and technologies?" In most instances, the house is the first building scrutinized, especially in the case of town surveys where they represent the majority of extant buildings. However, the importance of "house integrity" is diminished when dealing with buildings located in rural settings. For most cases in Nebraska, this means a farmstead. With the added significance of agricultural-related buildings (such as hay, horse and livestock barns, granaries, corn cribs, and elevators), a limited amount of alteration to the house should not prevent the site from being

documented. In the case where a farmstead contains a large historic representation of farm buildings with a severely altered house, the site will be documented as a farmstead with a non-contributing house. A final case may exist where a single, highly significant, farm-related building is located within an otherwise altered farmstead. In this event, Save America's Heritage will document the individual building designating a site number solely to the specific building, structure, or object.

Integrity also appears to play an important role in the field documentation of commercial buildings. Traditionally, buildings used for commerce have been adaptively reused by subsequent generations. These buildings are positioned along a primary local thoroughfare or even a regionally important highway, thus lending appeal to present-day retailers seeking new locations. Often the buildings are physically altered to accommodate new functions and therefore suffer a loss of integrity. With this in mind, only those buildings exhibiting the visual characteristics of their historic period will be documented.

In summary, the determination of integrity will be based upon the historic retention of the following physical characteristics.

- Materials: Does the building retain the original materials from its period of historic importance?
- Location: Is the building placed in its original location or has it been moved?
- Design: Does the building reflect the design aesthetics of its historic period?
- Setting: Does the building reflect a historic "sense of place"?
Does the historic image and feel still exist?
- Function: Does the building represent its historic use?

Characteristics of Rural Integrity

With the concept of Rural Historic Districts added to the National Register process, the principal investigator is forced to develop new visual sensitivities which are sympathetic to the qualities of rural settings. New methods of survey and research must be added to our

understanding of both the built and natural environment and the historic relationship between them.

With this in mind, Save America's Heritage will attempt, without contractual obligation, to observe the following characteristics of potential significance to rural historic enclaves.

- The condition and presence of features, natural and built, which relate to a historic period of importance.
- The ability of a rural environment to reflect a sense of a past time or place.
- Potential unifying factors which may link rural properties together.
- The potential significance of historic contexts not preliminarily identified as important to the study area.
- The overall patterns of landscape spatial organization (landforms, natural features, material components).
- Land-use categories and activities (farming, ranching, recreation).
- Response to natural features (landform affect on material components).
- Boundaries (cultural, political, or natural).
- Cluster arrangements (position of material elements within landscape setting).
- Ecological context (Missouri River Valley).
- Integrity: Loss of natural features that were historically integral to the rural setting and intrusion of non-contributing features.
- The presence of sociocultural institutions with association to buildings within the district (granges, township halls).

D. Field Activities: Context Specific

Despite similar mechanical recording techniques, the documentation of historic buildings associated with a variety of contextual themes can be very dissimilar. The conceptual approach of the surveyor must adapt to the nature of the building typology in order to record the data most relevant to the historic context. For example, retail commerce documentation will differ from livestock documentation in that a site plan, useful

in recording farm building relationships, will not be as useful when recording a commercial infill structure.

Based on this theory, an outline of the specific tasks associated with the documentation of Intensive Livestock building typologies has been developed and is listed below. These tasks are broken down into three categories according to the essential character of the task. These categories are: 1) communication research, 2) documentation research, and 3) fieldwork. It should be noted that this is not a sequential outline, but is a list of tasks which may occur simultaneously throughout the course of the survey.

Communication Research

- Solicitation of public input via published notice of intent to study intensive livestock production within Dixon and Dakota Counties.
- Contact local or county historical societies for potential information regarding livestock-producing buildings.
- Oral interviews of present owners of livestock-producing buildings.
- Oral interviews of past owners of livestock-producing buildings.
- Oral interviews of builders/carpenters of livestock-producing buildings.
- Oral interviews of local citizens in communities geographically associated with livestock-producing farms.

Documentation Research

- Performance of deed research in county courthouse to determine historic chain of ownership and present owners of potential livestock-producing farm buildings.
- Performance of mortgage and mechanic's lien research in county courthouse in an attempt to define dates of construction and builders of livestock-producing farmsteads.
- Review 1891, 1911, and 1925 Dixon and Dakota County Land Atlas to establish location and ownership of rural livestock-producing enclaves.

- Review 1885 Agricultural Census of Dixon and Dakota Counties in an effort to derive the number of stock, original acreage, and size of improved farmland of rural livestock-producing farmsteads.
- Perform ethnicity search in 1880, 1900, and 1910 census to verify birthplace of livestock-producing property owners.

Fieldwork

Field documentation of livestock-producing properties will include the following:

- Site plans showing building relationship and zones of farming activities.
- Written descriptions noting specific materials of construction.
- Written descriptions noting design motifs of special interest.
- Wide-angle, perspective-corrected exterior photographs of all appropriate images.
- Wide-angle, perspective-corrected color slides of the major external characteristics.

In addition, field documentation may include any of the following records as deemed appropriate by the principal investigator.

- Wall construction details.
- Section drawings of houses, barns, or other outbuildings.
- Drawings of significant decorative details.
- Photographs of significant interior spaces.

E. Anticipated Findings

1. Event: Establishment and changes through time of Northeastern Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production farming systems.

We expect to find farmsteads throughout the county which depict intensive livestock production. This farming system requires a diversity of buildings and skills. Crops such as corn, oats, and alfalfa are grown, not for cash sales, but for animal feed for cattle, calves, hogs, or pigs which are sold for cash income. Farmsteads which have retained their premechanization farm buildings will have a variety of structures important to record for the reconnaissance-level survey. The variety of

structures is similar to those found in the Southeast Nebraska General Farming Context (see Kehlbeck farmstead, Cass County, NE, NRHP nomination). The type of structures reflective of intensive livestock production are barns, cattle barns, cattle loafing sheds, hog barns, hog loafing sheds, farrowing beds, granaries, corn cribs, hog fences, and cattle fences. These types are all found in southeastern Nebraska general farming--the difference is one of scale. The intensive livestock area will have more cattle, calves, hogs and pigs, needing larger barns and loafing sheds. Little, if any, of the crops are sold, necessitating larger granaries and larger corn cribs. Important as these structures are, we are interested in them, not separately, but as part of the entire farmstead. Other important structures to record for our full understanding of an intact farmstead include the house, wash house, cellar, cob house, summer kitchen, chicken house, brooder house, machine shop, implement shed, orchard, vegetable garden, stock tank system, windmill, windbreaks, and pump systems. In general, these structures need to be more than 50 years old to be contributing features (Source: Hedge & Elliott, L. F. Garey, Kehlbeck nomination, SE General Farming Context, D. Murphy conversations).

2. Event: Establishment and changes through time of agricultural industry associated with intensive livestock production.

The intensive livestock production area will have agricultural industry in association, exclusive of the farmstead, for example elevators, farmer cooperatives, seed farms, etc. These types will be carefully recorded in this survey.

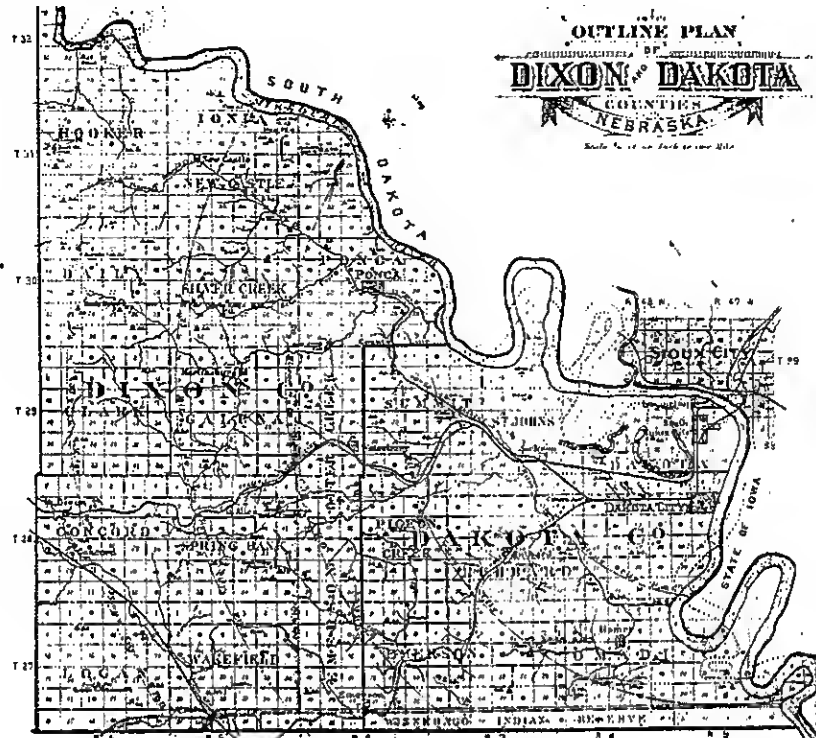
3. Priority:

The economic underpinning of the county is based on agriculture and on the intensive livestock production mode dominant in this intra-county area. In addition, agriculture in the last 20 years and perhaps even more so in the last 5 years, has undergone considerable stress, much more than other phases of county life. The number of farms has decreased by half in the last 20 years (Source: U.S. Census). The long-term preservation of

farmsteads and farm outbuildings in representative numbers and in individual types and examples has probably already been severely compromised with a forecast of more of the same, probably at an accelerating rate. Therefore, it is important on this reconnaissance-level survey to record nearly all farm outbuildings and agriculture industry related structures more than 50 years old for the simple reason that they may not be there much longer. Future intensive-level survey will be focused on intact farmsteads and examples related to the above listed research criteria.

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN DIXON AND DAKOTA COUNTIES

Scope and Scale of Study



The type of farming identified in Dixon and Dakota Counties is Northeastern Intensive Livestock Production. "Both corn and oats occupy a larger proportion of the farm area here than in any other section of the state. Likewise more beef cattle and hogs are found here per unit of area (square mile) than in any other part of the state" (Hedges, p. 47). The area north of the Platte River from the Missouri River stretching 50 to 150 miles westward was thus labeled by the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in connection with the plan of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. Types of farming are a result of various factors, the most important being soil, climate, topography, biological factors, economic factors, market outlets, and nationality. Other factors include land prices, competition in agriculture, relative prices, land tenancy, and the use of the land. In May 1936, Bulletin 299, Factors Determining Type-Of-Farming Areas in Nebraska

by L. F. Garey, was published by the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture Experiment Station, Lincoln, using these factors to separate Nebraska farming practices.

The soil and climate in the eastern part of Nebraska allows for a variety of crop production. The nature of the land, economic factors, and the immigrants' backgrounds all led to intensive livestock production. The soil is primarily loess, which holds moisture for excellent plant growth. Abundant rainfall and numerous streams, along with an adequate growing season, allows for the production of crops. Except for the bluffs along the Missouri River, the topography is gently rolling hills expanding into flat lands in the west and south. The highlands are well suited to grazing and the valleys and flatlands to crops.

Corn production appears to be best suited to the climate of the region, with the production and yield being the highest in the state (Hedges, p. 48). With the emphasis on corn, oat and hay crops fit in well with the cropping system. Winter wheat is difficult to plant in the productive corn fields and used space valuable to the established crop rotation. Winter wheat was tried as a crop around the turn of the century and then abandoned. For the best utilization of land and crops, livestock production was increased. Corn and hay crops were well suited to meat production, and the market value was greater for cattle and hogs than cash crops (Hedges, pp. 47-53, Figures 3-6).

Time Line of Events Associated with Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1854 | Kansas-Nebraska Act, state opened to settlement |
| | Results in: Immigration and settlement along the Missouri River |
| | Results: Introduction of sod corn (Fite, p. 50; Sanford, p. 165) |
| | Continuing development of the prairie plow (Hurt, p. 12; Sanford, p. 246) |
| 1855 | Dakota County organized |

1857-1858	Series of harsh winters in Dixon and Dakota Counties Results in: Loss of livestock
1858	Dixon County organized
1859	Payment on Pre-emption Act due 1.25 per acre Results in: Loss of farms for those unable to pay
1860-1865	Civil War Results in: Improved farm equipment Development of Corn Belt farming in Nebraska as frontier moves west (3-crop rotation, corn-oats-hay) (Fite, p. 50; Sweedlun, p. 51; Hart, p. 266)
1862	Homestead Act passed
Late 1860s, 1870s	Reconstruction
1869	Railroad development begun in Nebraska
1873	Timber Culture Act
Mid 1870s	Grasshopper plagues in eastern Nebraska (Schaad, p. 34)
Late 1870s	Drop in grain prices Results: More productive to feed grain to livestock Results: Number of livestock increases in northeast Nebraska
1880s	General prosperity, growth of counties in Nebraska
Early 1880s	St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad towns established in Dakota and Dixon Counties Results: Rail transportation of surplus and supplies Results: Interiors of Dakota and Dixon Counties settled

1884	Stockyards open in Omaha (Condra, p. 174) Results: Close market established Results: Increased livestock Intensive livestock production established (Sweedlun, p. 96; Hedges, p. 54)
Late 1880s	Harsh winters Results: Loss of livestock
1890s	Economic depression, drought Results: Crop failure and loss of farms Rise of Populist party - strong in Nebraska Steam power development (Sanford, p. 258) Results: Application to farm machinery
1900	Beginning growth of cities and rural exodus Ranching begun in Sandhills Results: Feeder cattle brought in from Sandhills to northeast Nebraska Farm diversification emphasized Results: Introduction of new hay crops Results: Alfalfa being grown (Condra, p. 190)
1910s	Gasoline engine developed Results: Applied to farm equipment and transportation Results: Bumper crops produced Results: Decline of railroad, decline of draft animals
1914-1918	World War I Results: Exporting farm produce to Europe Results: High grain prices —> production up Results: Mechanization established

Results: Farmers borrowing on high land values —>
expanding operations

1920s Recovery from war
 European farms recovering
 Results: Grain prices drop
 Results: Farmers unable to pay back loans
 Results: Loss of farms
 Results: Farm recession
 Continued growth of cities and rural exodus
 Mechanical innovations (Hurt, p. 66)

Late 1920s Farm prices rising

1930s Economic depression, drought
 Results: Crop failure, farm prices down
 Results: Loss of farms
 Results: Number of livestock down
 Government acts to help farmers (Condra, p. 195)

Late 1930s Development of rubber tires
 Results: Tractors becoming basic modern farming
 machinery (Mighell, p. 3)
 Combine being accepted (Hurt, p. 83)

1939-1945 World War II
 Grain prices back up (Condra, p. 196)
 Farm prosperity
 Production up

Late 1940s Government acts to aid farmers continue (Wessel, p. 5)

1950- Mechanization
 Result: Combine becoming part of farm with other
 heavy equipment

1953	Biotechnology begun with the discovery of the DNA molecule (Moser, p. 12)
Late 1950s	Development of fertilizers and herbicides
1960s	Development of specialized breeding (Baltensperger, p. 160) Farm size increasing Cost of farming rising Result: Farm specialization (Baltensperger, p. 160) Soybean production: Increasing to a major cash crop (Hart, p. 17) Number of livestock declining in Dixon and Dakota Counties with specialization (Hurt, p. 83)
Late 1960s	Vietnam conflict Result: Prices up Exporting farm produce
1970s	Land value high Result: Borrowing on inflated costs
1980s	Farm recession (Wessel, pp. 20, 47) Overproduction Prices declining Family farm disappearing (Wessel, p. 2) Biotechnology continuing (Moser, p. 13) Soil preservation (Moser, p. 22) Cost of farming rising (Moser, pp. 20-21)

Description of Phases

Settlement Period 1854-1885

The settlement period consists of the time the territory was opened for settlement in 1854 until Dakota and Dixon Counties were completely settled in 1885. Dakota County was organized by the territorial legisla-

ture in 1855 and Dixon County in 1858. The factors which played an influence in the settlement were the coming of rail, the establishments of towns, and the development of Corn Belt farming into intensive livestock production.

The first immigrants came primarily from the eastern United States and settled along the Missouri River with fingers of settlement inland along the rivers and streams. One hundred sixty acres of land could be obtained through the Pre-Emption Act at \$1.25 per acre. Pioneers located their farms near water and timber, beginning the process of breaking the prairie soil with an axe and dropping in a few kernels of seed corn. This was a slow process with the farmer planting only 7 to 10 acres in the first years. The development of the prairie plow, through design and harder steel, made planting easier and quicker allowing more acres to be put into cultivation. The nature of the land allowed for farming in the valleys and pasturing of livestock on the hills.

After the prairie soil had been broken, farmers began the traditional Corn Belt farming. "Corn Belt" farming consists of three-crop rotation of corn, oats, and hay crops, along with small herds of cattle and hogs. Corn was sold as a cash crop, and the livestock were for the use of the farmer and his family. Corn Belt farming was a traditional farming process from the north central United States where the first immigrants to eastern Nebraska had come from. Foreign immigrants quickly adopted the farming tradition (Baltensperger, 1980, pp. 186-187).

Through rail transportation, settlement of the interiors of the counties was made possible. In 1881 the Norfolk branch of the St. Paul Railroad was built through the counties. With the coming of rail, railroad towns were platted, and farmers were able to move onto new prairie lands with rail transportation for supplies and produce. The railroads owned land along their thoroughfares, and thus encouraged immigration to settle the property through promotions in the eastern United States and Europe. Towns and farms in the southern and western portions of both counties were established by 1885.

Corn Belt farming in northeastern Nebraska developed into intensive livestock production due to economic conditions. Throughout the 1870s,

the price of corn fell and it became more profitable for farmers to feed the grain to livestock and then sell the livestock. Farmers in northeast Nebraska received large yields of corn and oats which were the best feed for fattening cattle and hogs. With the emphasis placed on livestock, farmers began keeping larger herds, feed lots, and barns for the increasing number of livestock. When the Omaha stockyards opened in 1884, a close market was established making the raising of livestock more profitable.

Through the climate and kinds of crops able to be grown in northeastern Nebraska, the raising and fattening of large herds of cattle and hogs was possible. A higher market value for livestock rather than grain made intensive livestock production most profitable. By 1885 this was becoming the most common form of farming in Dixon and Dakota Counties. Precincts and towns were established and thriving in the good economic times of the 1880s.

Intensive Livestock Production

The production of large herds of cattle and hogs was the primary income for farmers during this time period. The period can be broken into two stages due to the advancement of farm machinery: the traditional, 1885-1914; and mechanized, 1914-1945. During the traditional period, general improvements were made on existing machinery. New forms of powering the machinery were being developed since before the turn of the century, but did not become an important factor in farming until the First World War. The mechanized period was the use of power other than draft animals or human labor as the basic power on farms. The use of the gasoline engine in automobiles, trucks, tractors, and to power smaller engines became widely accepted and necessary. Improvements were made upon the gasoline engine, and its use in farming continued through the period.

Traditional, 1885-1914

During the traditional farming period, farmers continued using relatively the same farming methods and tools. Draft animals and human labor were the primary source of power on farms. The plow was improved

for prairie farming, as were machinery for planting and harvesting hay and corn crops. Combinations of machinery and new techniques made farming continually easier, but the concepts remained relatively unchanged.

It is assumed the average size of each farm remained around the traditional 160 acres. Three-crop rotation, with corn and hay crops, continued with alfalfa being added as a hay crop after the turn of the century. The corn and hay crops were fed to large herds of cattle and hogs, declining and growing in number as the economy dictated.

After the turn of the 20th century, feeder cattle began being brought in from the cattle ranches of the Nebraska Sandhills. It is not known if cattle were imported before this time or from where they came. Another question remaining is if the size of the feeder lots grew at this time on intensive livestock farms. But it is doubtful since relatively the same acreage remained in crop lands.

During the 1890s and early 1900s, farmers in Dixon and Dakota Counties experimented with growing large acres of wheat (Figures 1 and 2). Possibly the depression of the 1890s combined with the success of winter wheat in other areas spurred many farmers in northeast Nebraska to try the crop. It is unknown what the corn acreage was before 1900, but when the wheat acreage dropped drastically between 1900 and 1930, it was picked up once again by corn. The shifts in acreage seemed not to affect livestock production, since the crop land acreage remained relatively constant.

Mechanized, 1914-1945

For centuries, general improvements were made on existing machinery. Steam and gasoline engines were developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s, but did not become a basic factor in farming until the First World War. With the need to produce during the time of conflict, the gasoline engine became the most useful and economical method and was put to many uses. The gasoline engine required less manual labor and less draft animals, changing the power source on farms from man and horse to machine. During the 1920s and 1930s, the truck and tractor had become an integral part of farming, along with smaller gasoline-run machinery.

Fig. 1. Dakota County Nebraska

	1900	1930	1964	1982
Farms				
Number	743	844	540	378
Average size		173.1	287.5	398
Cattle				
Number	15,990	14,804	27,989	19,595
Farms			385	201
Hogs and pigs				
Number	41,218	42,265	44,988	26,795
Farms			353	144
Corn				
Acres	39,646	63,114	45,623	53,217
Farms		781	464	276
Hay				
Acres		12,004	10,408	8,855
Farms			348	178
Soybeans				
Acres		--	11,657	36,257
Farms		--	280	237
Wheat				
Acres	28,722	2,530	66	710
Farms			5	14
Oats				
Acres	5,835	16,588	9,784	9,372
Farms			236	150
Alfalfa (hay)				
Acres		6,963		
Farms				
Value of land and buildings				
Average per farm			\$49,681	\$470,553

United States Agricultural Census

Fig. 2. Dixon County Nebraska

	1900	1930	1964	1982
Farms				
Number	1,408	1,530	1,049	731
Average size		189.9	270.5	347
Cattle				
Number	27,968	30,754	53,852	47,131
Farms			908	502
Hogs and pigs				
Number	72,227	84,721	98,407	87,871
Farms			807	344
Corn				
Acres	77,375	125,573	81,688	93,887
Farms		1,477	886	599
Hay				
Acres		24,062	18,908	17,201
Farms			773	454
Soybeans				
Acres		—	13,779	35,446
Farms		—	440	407
Wheat				
Acres	45,820	631	200	117
Farms			7	7
Oats				
Acres	19,280	48,950	23,484	21,206
Farms			582	406
Alfalfa (hay)				
Acres		9,817		
Farms				
Value of land and buildings				
Average per farm			\$40,743	\$320,592

United States Agricultural Census

According to the agricultural census of 1930, the average farm size in Dakota County was 173 acres and in Dixon, 190 acres (Figures 1 and 2). Intensive livestock production was established in the form described by the University of Nebraska Agricultural bulletins. The farm recession of the 1920s and depression of the 1930s damaged the farming industry in Dixon and Dakota Counties with low prices and low demand for farming products. This after all-time price and production highs during the First World War. Farmers everywhere borrowed on the artificial prices created by the world conflict. When the war was over, European farms began to produce again, armies dissipated, and American grain prices fell. Borrowed money had to be paid back with agricultural prices falling; many farmers lost their farms. Even with the recession of the early 1920s, by 1930 the number of farms in both counties were slightly up from the 1900 census. Livestock numbers remained steady and acreage increased from the 1900 agricultural census. Farming had revived from the recession of the 1920s in time for the nationwide economic crash of the 1930s.

Even with economic hard times for over 20 years, the truck and tractor had been accepted as basic farm machinery. Other large machinery such as the combine also became standard on eastern Nebraska farms. Tractors became even more popular with the development of rubber tires in the mid-1930s. The gasoline engine made farming easier, but with the economic condition did not yet affect the size or kind of farming in the area.

World War II brought higher grain prices and production once again rose to new highs to meet the world demand. In the late 1940s and 1950s, the family farm existed much the same as before. The price of farming had not yet exploded.

Scientific and Specialized, 1960-

In 1964 the average price per farm in the value of land and buildings in Dixon County was \$40,743; by 1982 it had risen to an incredible \$320,592. In Dakota County the trend was from \$49,681 in 1964 to \$470,553 in 1982, just 18 years (Figures 1 and 2). Farming had changed. The average per farm acreage was up, while the number of farms in both

counties was down with the trend continuing to this day. In both counties the number of cattle and hogs decreased along with the number of farms reporting them (Figures 1 and 2). The trend in farming turned technical, scientific, and specialized.

During the 1960s, farming characteristics began to change. The use of tractors and combines cleared the way for larger, more efficient farms. Less manpower was needed and more land could be cultivated in less time. With the necessity of large machinery and more acreage to compete in the agricultural market, the cost of farming began to rise. Developments in fertilizers and pesticides beginning in the 1950s not only helped produce bumper crops, but also greatly increased the cost of farming. Large new machinery and new technology allowed farmers to produce more than ever before, if they could afford it. This high cost of farming led farmers to specialize in crop, cattle, or hog production in recent years.

The cropping system was altered with the introduction and acceptance of soybeans as a cash crop. In the 1930 census, neither county reported soybeans. In 1964 Dakota County reported 11,657 acres and Dixon County 13,779 acres. By 1982 the acreage had just about tripled. Corn acres in both counties decreased; hay and oat crops also dropped but stayed relatively constant between 1964 and 1982 (see Figures 1 and 2). The popularity of soybeans in the United States and foreign market is due to its diversibility found in the 1960s, causing it to be a profitable cash crop.

Through breeding developments, livestock production became more controlled increasing beef and pork production. The number of cattle and hogs in Dixon and Dakota Counties decreased between 1964 and 1982, with the number of farms reporting livestock also decreasing. The trend through the years of specialization was larger herds of cattle or hogs on fewer farms. But in these counties the number of livestock also decreased.

Concluaion

Farming in Dakota and Dixon Counties has remained over the past decades intensive livestock production with changes. Corn production,

along with rotation of hay crops, has remained the basic form of crop production. Soybeans have taken acreage from the traditional crops because of its enormous cash crop advantage. Corn and oats are still used as the primary source of feed for livestock. The number of livestock has fluctuated with the necessity of the economy with the trend to conserve money through livestock specialization. It is too costly in this day of high technology to diversify in production, so farmers tend towards specialization. The number of farms in each county has continued to decline with the average acreage per farm up. Improved technology in farming equipment has changed the power source and allowed the farmer to cultivate more acreage and produce more.

Intensive Livestock Production Property Types

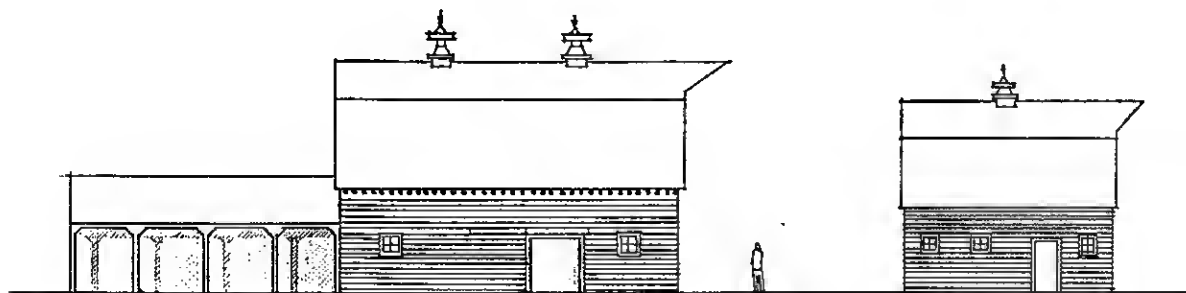
In the property type study of ethnic-related contexts in Dixon and Dakota Counties, the buildings of discussion are organized according to the separation of Old World from New World typologies. Unfortunately, the study of livestock-producing buildings does not lend itself to this conceptual separation. The design and arrangement of Old World farms varied considerably according to cultural traditions and geographic location. For example, the stout German interpretation of a livestock barn differs from the low and extended Anglo conception of livestock barns. Because of cultural differences, the discussion of Old World livestock buildings would be overly broad and unnecessary. Therefore, Old World livestock buildings are discussed only in reference to the three ethnic groups of study (Irish, Danish, Swedish) and can be found in their respective final report.

Instead, an examination of the building types comprising livestock farmsteads appears a more objective and appropriate study. Even with potential variances in cultural design, all livestock production requires a basic group of animal-related structures. The compulsory provision of food, shelter, and land is required regardless of Old World or New World location. Based on this attitude, the following property type discussion will focus upon the delineation of the basic structures associated with livestock agriculture, and the factors affecting their evaluation as

significant representatives of intensive livestock production in northeast Nebraska.

Livestock-Related Building Types

This farming system requires a diversity of buildings and skills. Crops such as corn, oats, and alfalfa are grown, not for cash sales, but for animal feed for cattle, calves, hogs, or pigs which are sold for cash income. Farmsteads which have retained their pre-mechanization farm buildings will have a variety of structures important to record for the reconnaissance-level survey. The variety of structures is similar to those found in the Southeast Nebraska General Farming Context (see Kehlbeck farmstead, Cass County, NE, NRHP nomination). The type of structures reflective of intensive livestock production are barns, cattle barns, cattle loafing sheds, hog barns, hog loafing sheds, farrowing beds, granaries, corn cribs, hog fences, and cattle fences. These types are all found in southeastern Nebraska general farming--the difference is one of scale. The intensive livestock area will have more cattle, calves, hogs and pigs, needing larger barns and loafing sheds (see Figure 3). Little, if any, of the crops are sold, necessitating larger granaries and larger corn cribs. Important as these structures are, we are interested in them, not separately, but as part of the entire farmstead.



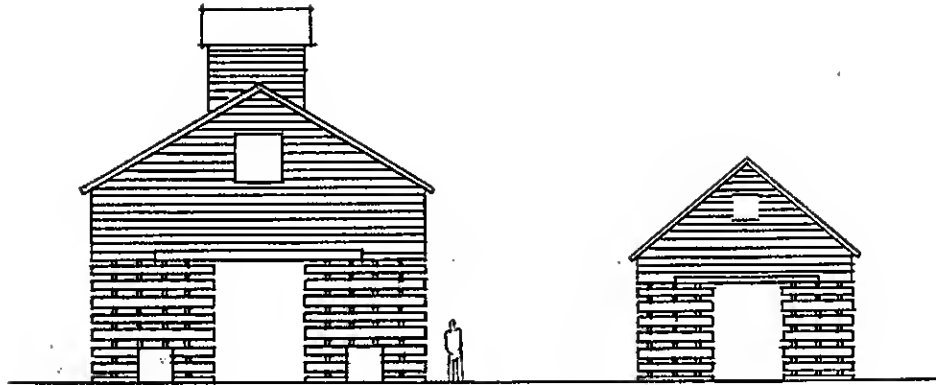
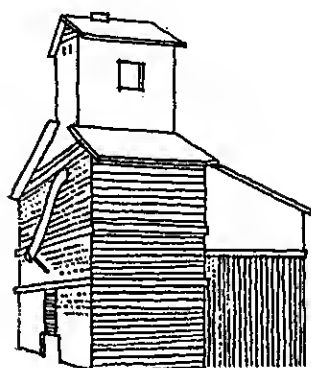


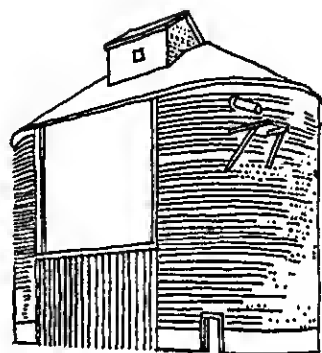
Fig. 3. Size relationship of livestock-producing versus general farming building types.

All of the livestock production associated buildings should be present with the scale of the buildings being large enough to accommodate the large numbers of livestock. Larger and more numerous (2 or more) barns, large loafing sheds, and large-scale corn cribs are necessary to livestock production. In addition to these primary components, other important structures to record for our full understanding of intact livestock farmsteads are:

Horse barns	Mobile field hog shed	Machine shop
Hay barns	Mobile field feed houses	Wash house
Hog fences	Implement sheds	Cob house
Cattle fences	Stock tank systems	Summer kitchen
Farrowing houses	Pump systems	House
Granaries	Windmills	Cellar
Livestock pasture	Windbreaks	Chicken house
Silo	Tool shed	Brooder house



Elevator



Granary

Fig. 4. Associated structures of livestock-producing agriculture.

Integrity and Evaluation of Livestock Building Types

The individual family farmstead is the major property type of interest to this context. A farmstead is a collection of many buildings and structures, and the survey is most interested in a collection representing in general all or most buildings over 50 years of age. In this context, the collection, i.e., an intact farmstead, meaning of appropriate age and all the proper buildings and structures extant is the ideal. Individual structures are less noteworthy, unless for some striking individual achievement.

Evaluating the farmsteads will be difficult for this is a property type whose future is questionable in the numbers previously known. A great many farmsteads and buildings are and will be redundant. The first criterion for judgement is, Is it an intact farmstead or not? If many of the outbuildings are gone, the farmstead has lost its overall character as

an intensive livestock farm. In most instances, the house is the first building scrutinized, especially in the case of town surveys where they represent the majority of extant buildings. However, the importance of "house integrity" is diminished when dealing with buildings located in rural settings. For most cases in Nebraska, this means a farmstead. With the added significance of agricultural-related buildings (such as hay, horse and livestock barns, granaries, corn cribs, and elevators), a limited amount of alteration to the house should not prevent the site from being documented. In the case where a farmstead contains a large historic representation of farm buildings with a severely altered house, the site will be documented as a farmstead with a non-contributing house. A final case may exist where a single, highly significant, farm-related building is located within an otherwise altered farmstead. In this event, Save America's Heritage will document the individual building designating a site number solely to the specific building, structure, or object.

Locational aspects of livestock buildings within farm complexes is very important; a moved building most probably loses all association and setting. Setting, association, and feeling are critical. All the various parts of a farmstead prior to 1930 are significant as a grouping arranged in proper manner, which will vary according to farmstead, but the component parts and necessity for dividing of house and house yard with appropriate structures from farm yard will probably occur.

In summary, the factors affecting the evaluation of intensive livestock farmsteads in northeast Nebraska are listed below. These characteristics are directly linked to the establishment of livestock-producing agriculture and can be defined through observations of building typologies found on suspected livestock properties.

Farm arrangement	Contextual setting - macro
Building functions	Material usage
Building relationships	Construction methods
Historic size of farm	Number and type of stock
Scale of buildings	Integrity
Contextual setting - micro	

Evolution of Livestock-Producing Property Types

The pre-intensive general farmstead contained characteristics typical of Corn Belt farming. These farmsteads contained all of the components necessary for three-crop rotation and the raising of small numbers of cattle and hogs. The farmstead included a farm house, livestock barns, corn cribs, hen house, wash house, silos, and summer kitchen. Associated objects found on pre-intensive farms included a cellar, windmill, pump systems, orchard, garden, and windbreaks. More barns had to be built on a larger scale to accommodate the larger herds of cattle and hogs. Pasture lands were also expanded to contain larger numbers of livestock. With innovation in farm implements and farm mechanization, sheds were built for housing and repair of the new machinery.

The modern day farmstead, however, has specialized in either cattle, hog, or crop production. The buildings then associated with a specific type of farm remain in use, while others are in decay or have been removed. New structures are primarily made of steel post and beam construction with lightweight metal sheathing. These materials impart a vastly different image than the traditional wood frame material of historic use. In some cases, the importance of historic livestock buildings has been diminished by technological improvements. For example, the wood frame granaries indicative of early 20th century feed storage can not match the contemporary metal silo for capacity or quality of storage. Thus, certain historic livestock-producing buildings have been adaptively re-used to fit modern methods of production.

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General Summary of Survey Results

GENERAL SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the reconnaissance-level survey of intensive livestock production in Dixon and Dakota Counties clearly establishes the historic existence of this farming system within the study area. The initial review of reconnaissance survey data reinforces this view by identifying a significant number of farmsteads with evidence of historic association to livestock production. The listing of these properties during pre-intensive research led to early observations of potentially significant findings. However, despite the existence of numerous historic livestock farmsteads, the intensive-level research of this context failed to produce a proportionally significant number of properties potentially eligible for National Register listing.

The properties prioritized in the reconnaissance survey contained evidence of livestock production but lacked a distinctive association to intensive production as defined by the Historic Context Report (see p. 24). The general character and scale of these farmsteads was not indicative of the hereto defined northeast Nebraska type delineated in the Washington County livestock study. Several of the intensively surveyed properties in Dixon and Dakota County border on a line between large-scale general farming and small-scale livestock production or even a combination of both (DX00-49, DK00-100, DX00-147).

The primary reason for the somewhat disappointing results are found in the general failure of these farmsteads to retain their historic character. This lack of integrity ranged from physical alteration to abandonment and decay, but in either case, was directly linked to two evolutionary changes in agriculture: (a) rural population density and (b) advances in livestock production techniques.

A. Rural Population Density

During the initial settlement of Dixon and Dakota Counties, it was not uncommon to find six to eight farms within the confines of a single 640-acre section of land. The 1900 census of Nebraska reinforces this fact by revealing that 76.3% of the state's population resided on the

farms (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980). Unfortunately, as agriculture has shifted from small acres and high density to large acreage and less density, the farmsteads which had been abandoned have remained so without much hope for re-occupance. By 1980, the rural-based population of Nebraska had dropped to only 37.1%. The affect of this declining population base has negatively impacted the livestock-producing farmsteads of Dixon and Dakota County. Manifestations of this decline are seen in the abundance of abandoned and deteriorated farms found throughout the study area. Of the 154 farmsteads and farm-related buildings documented in Dakota County, 24.7% (38) were abandoned. Even more despairing, 36.5% (86) of the 236 farms recorded in Dixon County were also abandoned. The combined two-county total illustrates a staggering 124 abandoned farms among the 390 recorded properties. With the widespread existence of abandoned and deteriorated farmsteads, the physical retention of the livestock-producing types is obviously in danger. To illustrate this point, of the 390 farmsteads and farm-related buildings recorded in Dixon and Dakota Counties, 13.3% contained historic evidence of livestock associated farming, and only 4.6% still carry on with livestock associated activities.

B. Livestock Production Techniques

Intensive livestock production as practiced today in Dixon and Dakota Counties differs greatly from the livestock production of the early settlement period (1880-1910). The typical northeast Nebraska historic livestock farm generally consisted of 160 acres and supported about 50 head of cattle and 75 hogs. Today, however, the contemporary livestock farm consists of massive feedlots where literally hundreds of cattle and hogs are fattened for eventual slaughter. The actual size of these lots can range upwards of two complete 640-acre sections of land. The building components of today's livestock farmsteads bear no physical resemblance to those of early 20th century livestock agriculture. Metal barns, silos, and implement sheds have replaced the traditional wood frame structures of historic livestock farmsteads. The contemporary livestock farm therefore lacks distinct association with historic livestock production as defined

by the Historic Context Report. Consequently, these buildings are of no interest to any historic building survey conducted before the 21st century.

In addition, those historic buildings which did survive the changes wrought by technological advances were in most instances physically altered to accommodate new functions. Changes in production techniques, equipment, and scale have affected the corresponding building needs. Therefore, the historic livestock buildings were either adaptively re-used to suit contemporary needs or were abandoned and collapsed.

In summary, the livestock-producing farmsteads of Dixon and Dakota County exhibited an overall lack of historical integrity and failed to attain a strong association with the criteria established in the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Historic Context Report.

C. Recommendations For Future Work

The priorities for future work recommended by Save America's Heritage are presented under two categories: 1) NeSHPO National Register follow-up, and 2) potential thematic studies.

The first of these two categories, the NeSHPO National Register follow-up, consists of the detailed examination of all properties listed in the Preliminary Inventory which, based on intensive survey, appear potentially eligible for the NRHP. Save America's Heritage strongly urges the NeSHPO to consider the multiple resource nomination of all properties associated with northeast Nebraska livestock production contained within this report.

Secondly, the potential thematic study presented below was derived from pre-survey research, reconnaissance- and intensive-level surveys, and original owner ethnicity.

1. German-American Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon and Dakota Counties. In most cases, the properties preliminarily identified in the reconnaissance survey as potential livestock farmsteads were found to have been originally owned by German immigrants. This information was derived from deed research supplying chain of ownership and subsequent census research to determine ethnicity of

historic owners. The results of this exercise revealed a preponderance of German-born owners who retained ownership of their livestock farmsteads throughout the period of historic importance. Therefore, it is Save America's Heritage recommendation that the NeSHPO conduct further investigation into the validity of a German-American Intensive Livestock Historic Context in Dixon and Dakota Counties.

Preliminary Inventory
of
Potential NRHP Properties

Preliminary Inventory of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Properties

This preliminary inventory is a list of sites that appear to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production (NNILP) Context.

NNILP is characterized by the raising of cattle and hogs. On the farmstead, grains are grown for livestock feed rather than being sold for cash. With this type of farming there are a large number of necessary buildings and structures. Barns for the shelter of livestock, farrowing and loafing sheds, facilities for feed grain storage such as granaries, corn cribs and silos, plus cattle and hog fencing systems are typical of this type of farming. See the NNILP Historic Context for a complete discussion of the farming system.

The sites listed in this preliminary inventory were derived through a multiple-stepped evaluation process subsequent to the reconnaissance-level survey. A total of 390 farmsteads were surveyed in the reconnaissance phase of the Dixon and Dakota County survey. After completing the reconnaissance survey, an inventory of 52 base-list properties with evidence of livestock-associated buildings was compiled. From this inventory, a second evaluation was performed by physically re-examining the base-list properties. This second reconnaissance examination reduced the inventory of **potentially significant** livestock properties to 12. Following this, the 12 sites were compared within the framework of the Historic Context Report and 8 sites with historical significance were selected for intensive survey. The primary aspects for consideration in the selection process were the comparative size, scale, and number of contributing, **unaltered** livestock-producing buildings.

These eight sites were intensively surveyed with somewhat disappointing results. Most of the properties are somewhat deteriorated and despite arguments for past local significance, the multiple resource nomination of these properties as significant representatives of northeast Nebraska intensive livestock farmsteads is debatable.

As a result of the intensive survey, six sites were identified as potentially eligible for National Register listing. The inventory of these sites, along with the two intensively surveyed properties not eligible, is included below. Additional information on all sites included in the preliminary inventory is available in the site cards and in the site files located in the Nebraska State Historical Society Preservation Office.

Intensively Researched Sites Strongly Suggested for NRHP Listing

DK00-113:	The Bengt Bonderson farmstead, 1891
DK00-118:	The Andrew and John Bonderson farmstead, 1887
DX00-27	The Schutte-Casey farmstead, 1902
DX00-61:	The Schoech-Moseman farmstead, 1888
DX00-145:	The William Echtenkamp farmstead, 1893
DX00-147:	The Gustaf Frederickson farmstead, 1901

Intensively Researched Sites with Associations to Intensive Livestock Production

DK00-100:	The Anton Wilke farmstead, 1886
DX00-49:	The Wilhelm Steecker farmstead, 1895

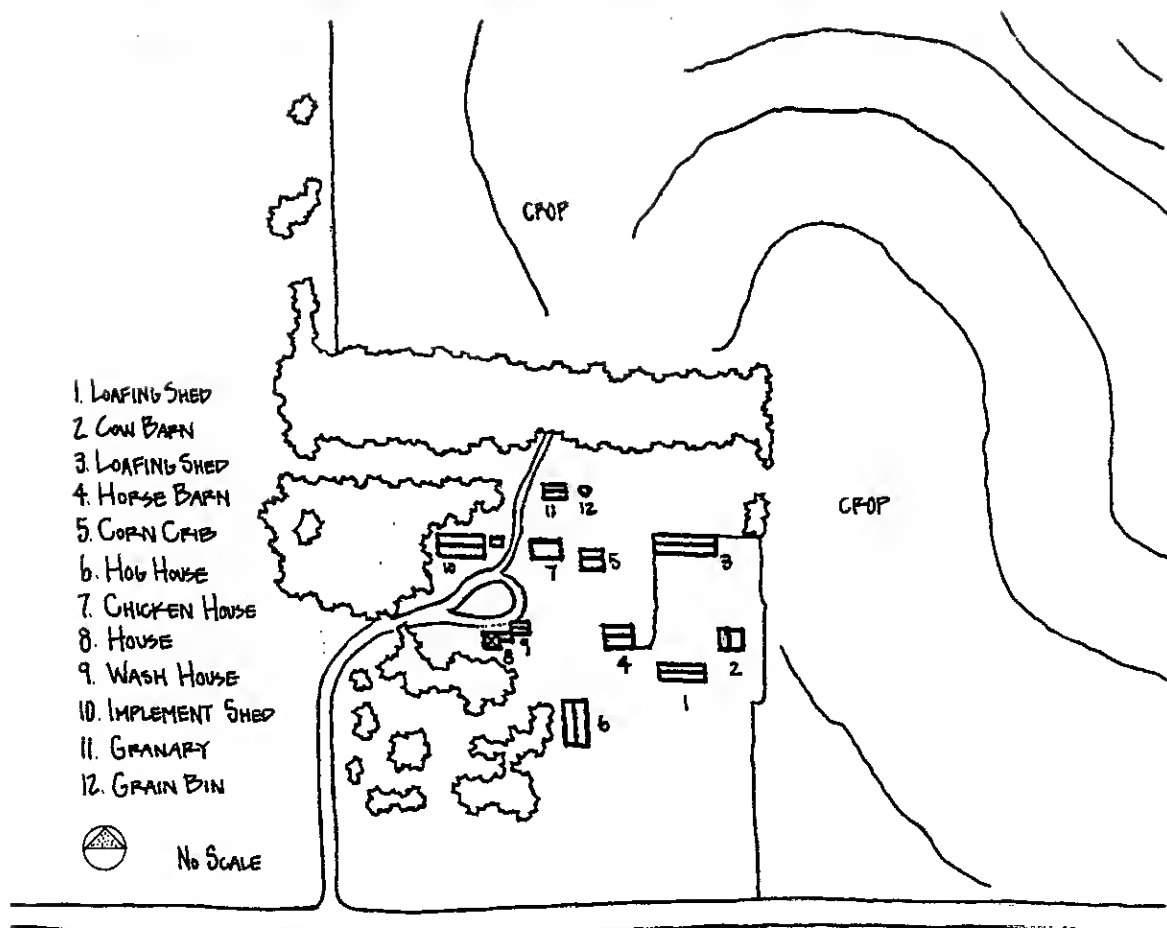
DK00-100: The Anton Wilke Farmstead, 1886

Historic Context: Intensive Livestock Production in Dakota County



Relationship to Historic Context

Located in south-central Dakota County, the Anton Wilke farmstead represents the small-scale livestock-producing farms typical of Dixon and Dakota County. These farms border between large general farming and small livestock-producing operations and therefore do not fit the criteria of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Agriculture defined by the Historic Context Report. The Wilke farmstead was preliminarily identified as a potential livestock farmstead and was intensively researched in an effort to derive significance. Despite its lack of association to the context, the Wilke farm does contain a representative collection of early 20th century farm buildings. A total of eight contributing buildings and two contributing structures are found on the farm, with the most prominent being the cow barn constructed in 1895 by Anton, and the horse barn built in 1917 by Anton's son, Wilhelm.



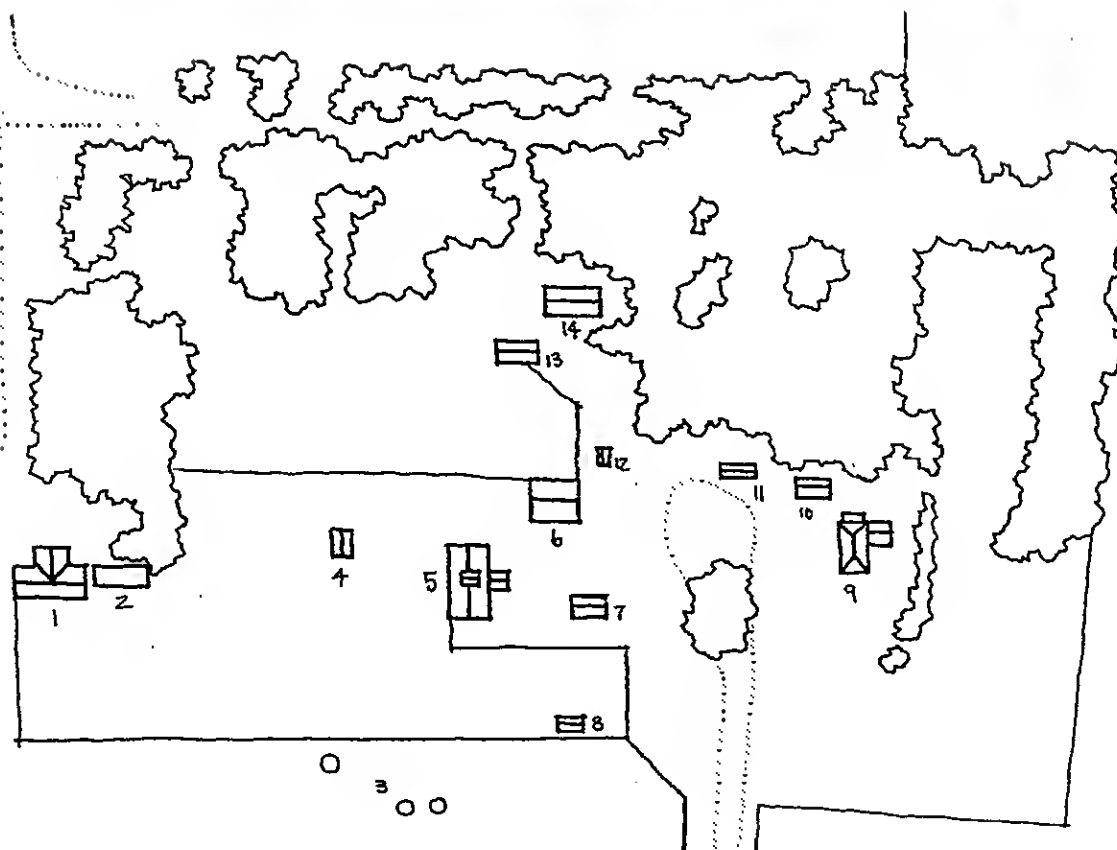
DK00-113: The Bengt Bonderson Farm, 1891

Historic Contexts: Intensive Livestock Production and Swedish-American Immigration in Dakota County



Historical Summary

Born in Skone, Sweden in 1862 to Andrew and Kate Bonderson, Bengt Bonderson emigrated with his family to the United States in the spring of 1863. After arriving in New York, the Bonderson family traveled to Florence, Nebraska where, in 1865, they joined the Mormon caravans bound for Salt Lake City. The Bondersons resided in Utah from 1865 to 1869 at which time they relocated to Omaha and eventually settled in the southwest Dakota County township of Emerson. In 1891, Bengt purchased the 160-acre farm of Jesse and Jason Wigle. This farm included the 1885 Wigle house which was incorporated into the construction of the Bonderson house purportedly completed by 1898. This house consists of a longitudinally oriented, rectangular-shaped core rising to two stories in height and covered with a gabled hip roof. The Bonderson farm consists of 14 contributing buildings and structures, foremost of which are the central drive-thru corn crib built in 1915 and a large gable roof hay barn with attached cattle and hog sheds.



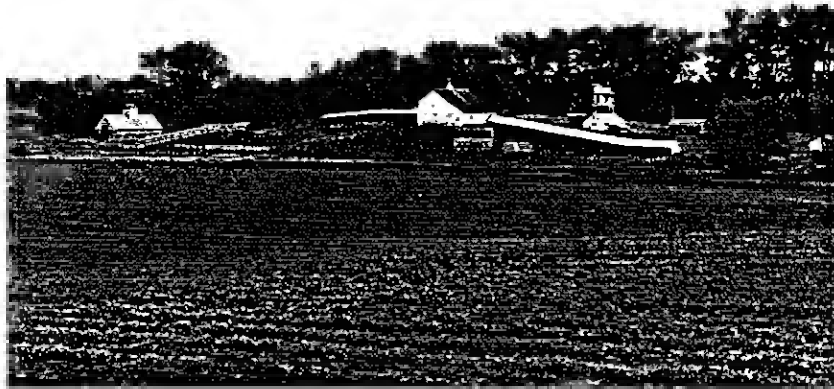
1. HAY & CATTLE BARN
2. HOG SHED
3. GRAIN BINS
4. GRANARY
5. CORN CRIB
6. HORSE BARN
7. TRACTOR SHED
8. FEED TROUGH
9. HOUSE
10. WASH HOUSE
11. CHICKEN HOUSE
12. GRANARY
13. MILK HOUSE
14. IMPLEMENT SHED



NO SCALE

DK00-118: The Andrew and John Bonderson Farmstead, 1887

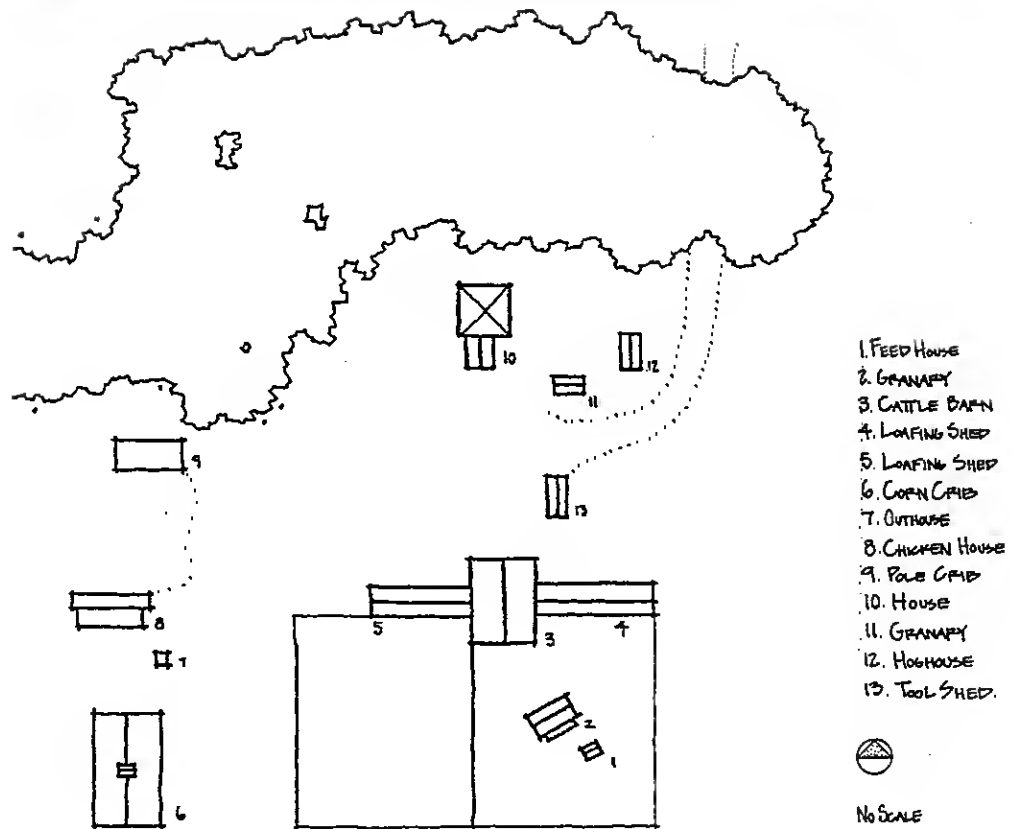
Historic Contexts: Swedish-American Immigration and Intensive Livestock Production in Dakota County



Historical Summary

Located in southwest Dakota County, the Andrew and John Bonderson farmstead combines the influences of Swedish-American culture with Northeast Nebraska Livestock Agriculture. The farm consists of 13 contributing buildings and structures which date back to the late 19th century founding of the farm by Andrew Bonderson. The most impressionable feature of the Bonderson farm is the large hilltop cattle barn with attached side loafing sheds. These loafing sheds extend down the hill-sides in opposite directions an impressive distance of 13.5 meters.

The Bondersons were natives of Skone, Sweden and emigrated to America in 1863. From 1865 to 1869 the Bondersons, enticed by Mormon missionaries, resided in Salt Lake City, Utah. After relocating to Omaha, Andrew eventually purchased the 480-acre farm where he lived from 1887 to 1899. At this time, the farm was passed to his son, John, who retained ownership until his death in 1951. Other contributions of the Bonderson family are found in the Bengt Bonderson farm illustrated on the preceding page.

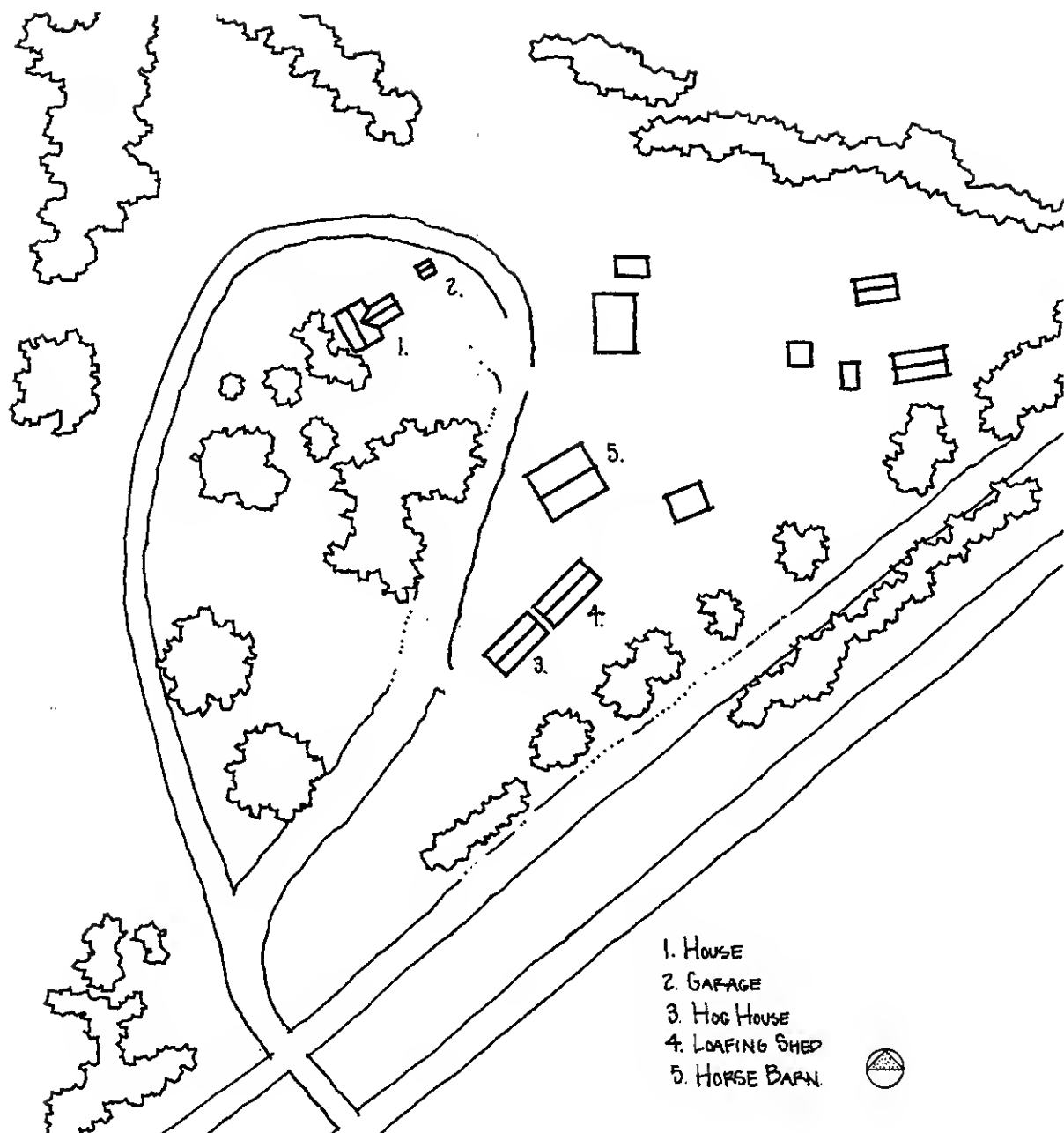


DX00-27: The John Schutte-Maurice Casey Farmstead, 1902
Historic Context: Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon County



Historical Summary

Despite its abandoned and deteriorated condition, the Schutte-Casey farmstead contains the building components representative of early 20th century livestock agriculture. Located in east-central Dixon County, this farm is comprised of 10 contributing buildings and structures. Foremost among these components are the large frame hog house with attached loafing shed/hay barn believed to be built by Casey around 1915. In addition, the original frame house, horse barn, and granaries constructed by Schutte in 1902 are also present. Both owners are included in the historic title of this farm for their respective contributions to the significance of the property. John Henry Schutte was born in Germany in 1867, and in 1881 emigrated to America where he settled in Hooper, Nebraska. In 1902, he purchased the 160-acre farm described above and retained ownership until the spring of 1914. At this time, he sold the farm to Maurice Casey, the Iowa-born son of Irish immigrants, Thomas and Margaret Casey. Maurice expanded the farmstead and, from 1914 through the 1930s, engaged in livestock-producing agriculture.



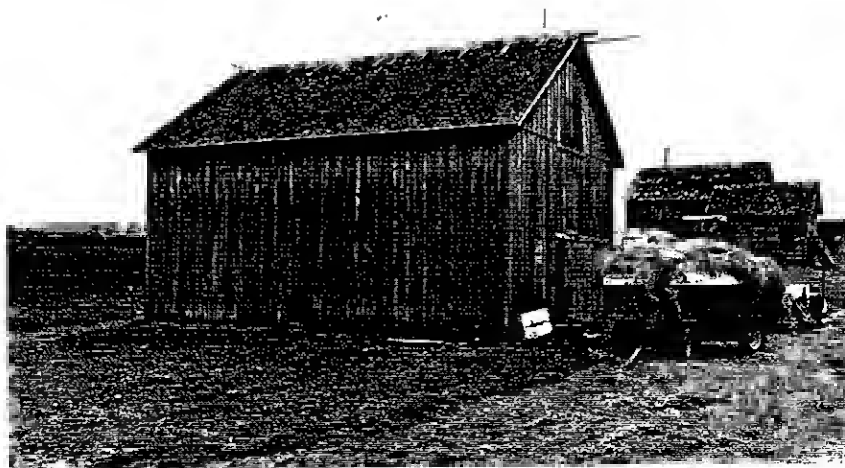
DX00-49: The Wilhelm Steecker Farmstead, 1895

Historic Context: Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon County



Relationship to Historic Context

Located in southeastern Dixon County, the Wilhelm Steecker farmstead is typical of the small-scale livestock-producing farms of Dixon and Dakota County. The Steecker farm was preliminarily identified in the reconnaissance survey as a potential livestock farmstead and was intensively researched in an effort to derive its significance. The intensive research found that the Steecker farmstead lacked both a significant number and scale of livestock-associated buildings to meet the criteria established in the Historic Context Report. However, the Wilhelm Steecker farmstead does contain a representative group of nine general agriculture buildings. Foremost among these are the one and one-half story frame house built in 1895, the frame horse barn constructed in 1902, and a double pen corn crib built in 1932 by Wilhelm's son, Ernest. In addition, the Wilhelm Steecker farm typifies German-American rural settlement in Dixon County and would be associated with a potential nomination of this topic.



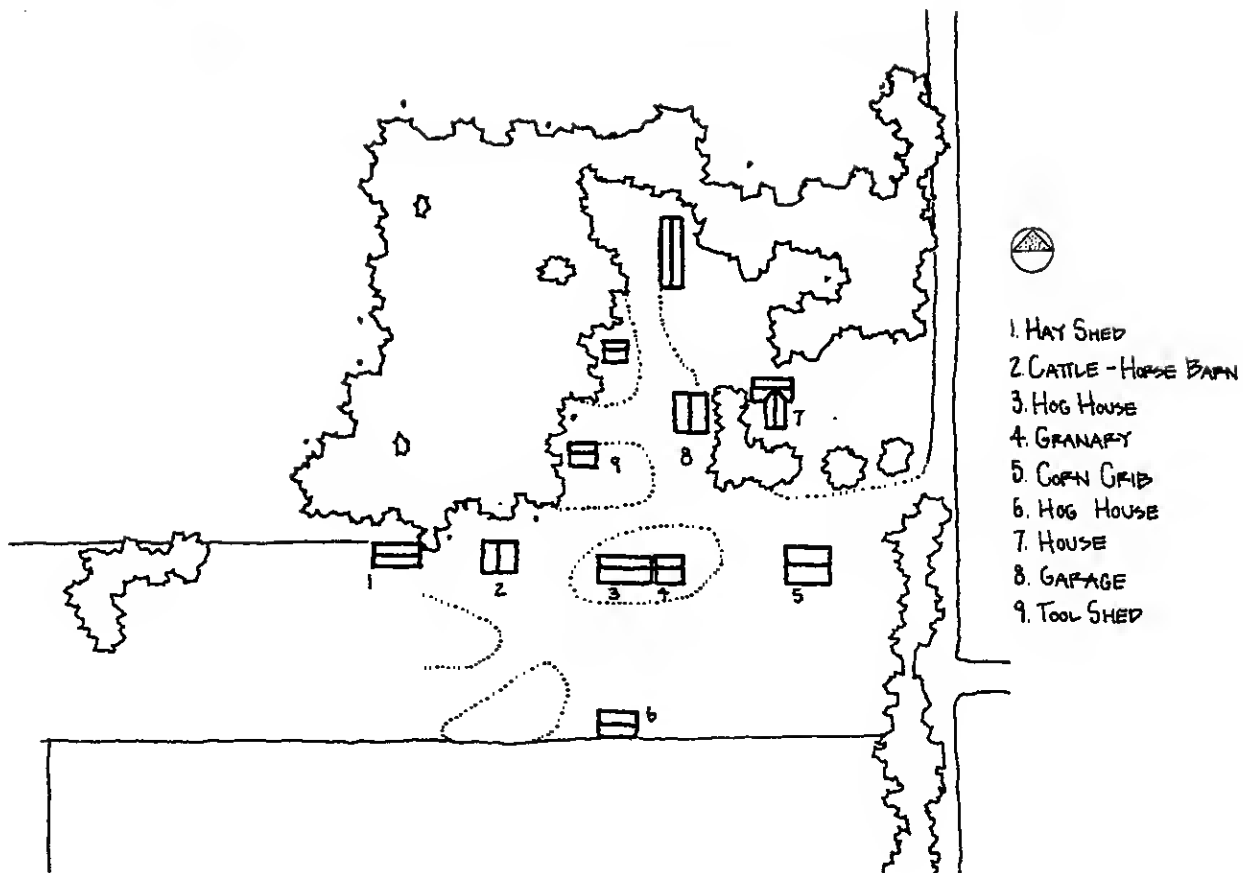
DX00-61: The Henry Moseman Farmstead, 1902

Historic Context: Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon County



Historical Summary

Henry Moseman was born in Germany in 1855. He emigrated to America in 1868 with his parents, Johann and Anna Moseman. After landing in the Buffalo, New York area, the Moseman's traveled by land through Canada, by boat to Chicago, by train to Iowa, and by wagon to Washington County, Nebraska. After homesteading with his family in Washington County, Henry relocated to a 320-acre farm near Oakland, Nebraska. In 1902, while residing near Oakland, Henry purchased a 320-acre farm in southeast Dixon County where he placed his twin children, Herman and Pauline. In 1910, Henry and Herman built the one and one-half story frame house, and the frame horse barn, corn crib, and chicken house. Through the years, Herman Moseman expanded the farm to include nine contributing buildings and three contributing structures. Foremost among these, and the primary reason for its selection as a livestock farmstead, are the frame hog house, granary, drive-thru crib, and large-scale stock barn.



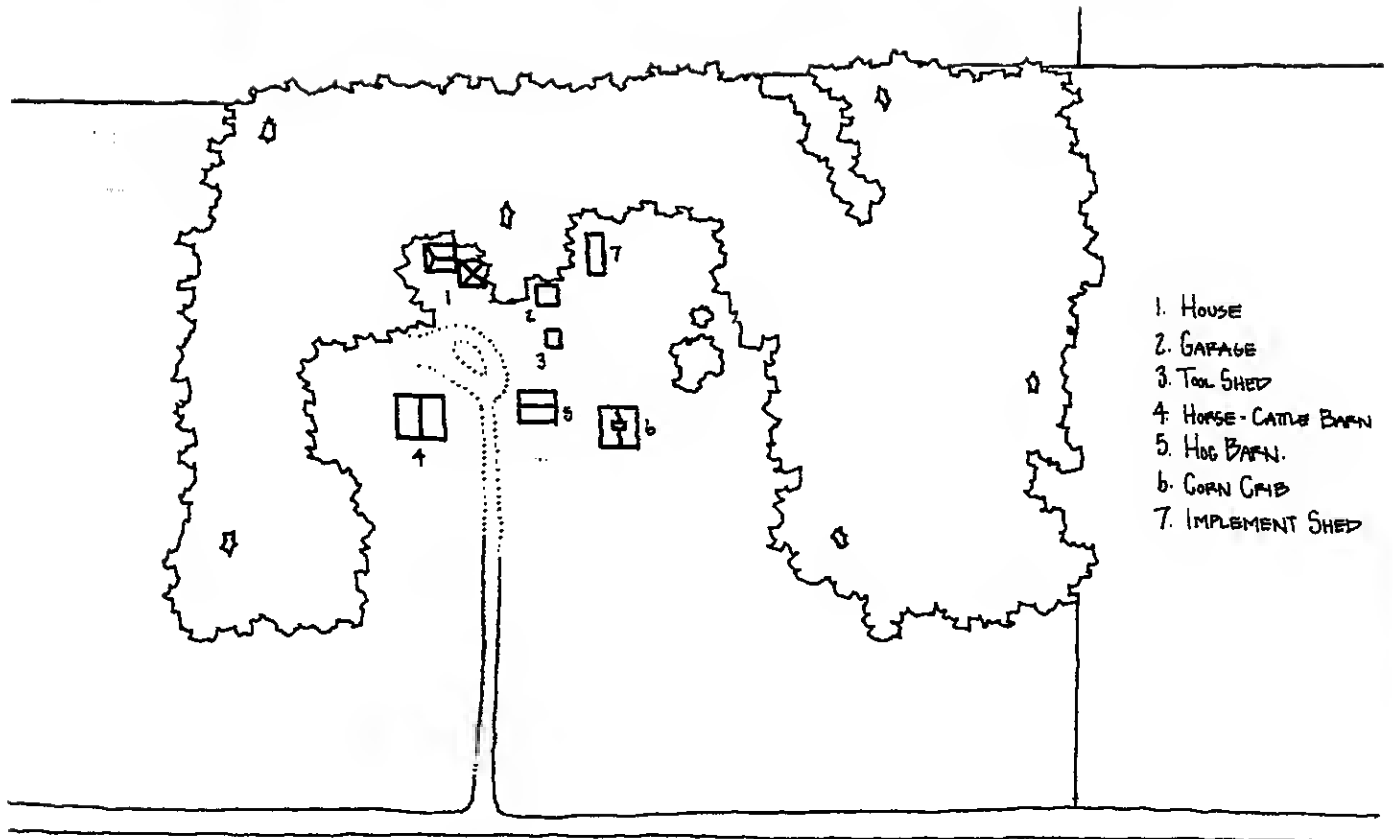
DX00-145: The William Echtenkamp Farmstead, 1893

Historic Context: Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon County



Historical Summary

Located in southwest Dixon County, the William Echtenkamp farmstead is representative of Northeast Nebraska Intensive Livestock Production. The raising of livestock on this property originated in 1893 when William Echtenkamp, the Illinois-born son of German immigrants, purchased 80 acres of land in the German-settled environs of Logan Township. Despite the dismantling of the hog-producing buildings, the Echtenkamp farm still retains 10 contributing buildings and structures. The most prominent of these buildings are the large gable roof cattle and horse barns and the double pen corn crib. With the exception of the two-story frame house built in 1897, all of these buildings were built around 1915 by William and Harry Echtenkamp.



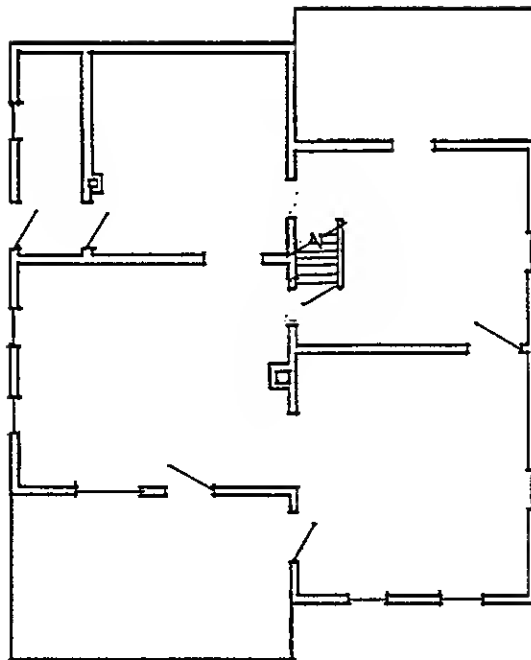
DX00-147: The Gustaf Frederickson Farm, 1886

Historic Contexts: Swedish-American Immigration and Intensive Livestock Production in Dixon County



Historical Summary

Gustaf Frederickson was born in his native home of Sweden in the year 1841. After emigrating to the United States during the famine of 1868, Gustaf and family settled in Lynn Center, Illinois where they resided until 1872. From 1872 to 1885, the Fredericksons lived in Essex, Iowa before finally making their third home in Logan Township of southwestern Dixon County. By the spring of 1886, Gustaf constructed a one and one-half story frame house which has served as the Frederickson family home for over 100 years. The house originally consisted of a latitudinally oriented, rectangular-shaped core with a one-story rear kitchen wing. In 1890, Gustaf expanded his home with the addition of a one and one-half story longitudinally oriented side wing. The Frederickson farm consists of a total of 11 contributing buildings and three contributing structures. Foremost among these are a large central drive-thru corn crib built in 1916 and a gable roof hog house built in 1919 by Gustaf's son, Axel. Supervising the construction of these buildings was Swedish-born carpenter Victor Forsberg.



1 2 3 4 5 10'

APPENDIX 1

Criteria For Evaluation

If the ultimate goal of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey is indeed the identification of properties worthy of National Register listing, then the definitions and criteria established by the NRHP become the primary concepts by which the significance of a historic property is evaluated.

The National Register defines a historic property as a district, site, building, structure, or object significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archeology, and culture. Historic Contexts Reports are developed by the survey team which define the essential aspects of a theme considered historically significant to the study area. A historic context is a broad pattern of historical development in a community or its region, that may be represented by historic resources. The use of historic contexts provides a mechanism for translating the broad National Register criteria into locally meaningful terms. For example, the National Register criteria allow any property that is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past to be regarded as eligible for listing, but it is the historic contexts of the area that define who such people were (p. 55, Nat. Reg. Bulletin, No. 24, V. 5, Dept. of the Interior). With this in mind, the National Register criteria translated into local meaning by the Historic Context Reports are as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or